

PSTO Minutes March 9, 2010

President Jacki Brennan called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes from January 12, 2010 meeting

Program: West High Career Center: Russ Johnson

- The purpose of the West High Career Center, which is staffed by Russ Johnson and funded by Dropout Prevention, is to help students identify their interests and skills that might transfer to a job/career area and to help students find ways to acquire jobs and work experience.
- The center offers skills and interests surveys, access to job shadows, help with finding internships, guest speakers, and job-seeking help, among other services.
- Russ provided services to 65 students last year and to 70 students so far this year.

Student Organization: Best Buddies: faculty rep Steve Merkle, students Molly McConnell, Phoebe Yetley

- Best Buddies is a national program with the mission of enhancing the lives of special needs' students by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships with their peers.
- WH Best Buddies group currently has 12-15 students involved; they meet every other Friday at 7:30 am.

Student Senate: reported by Brady Shutt

- Student Senate raised \$1000 for Haiti earthquake relief effort.
- Senate-organized Dance Marathon was successful.
- Senate is planning a student forum on re-districting, including a speaker from ICCSD central office.

Faculty Representative: Brady Shutt

- Shutt reported that the faculty is watching the re-districting and budgeting processes with interest, as well as the decisions regarding staffing for next year and into the future.
- Faculty thanks PTSO for recent faculty breakfast and for food provided for faculty during recent parent-teacher conferences.

Administrative Report: Jerry Arganbright

- Enrollment at West High, currently at 1765 students, is expected to increase to 1840 students next year, and to more than 1900 students for the 2011/12 school year, at which time adjustments between West High and City High will probably be necessary. Registration for the 2010/11 school year went well.
- Arganbright expressed hope that the present economic recession will not impact ICCSD too badly.
- The number of WH clubs for which stipends are budgeted may be reduced from 30 to 20, with the goal of minimally impacting the academic school day experience for students.
- The re-districting process is progressing slowly, with the next committee meeting to focus on the possible scenarios for the junior high schools and high schools.
- City High and West High will present a program about alcohol use as students transition from high school to college on April 19.

President: Jacki Brennan

- Jacki is currently contacting committee chairs for next year.
- Review of the PSTO bylaws is underway.

Vice President: Ellen Segar. No report.

Treasurer: Christy Fehlberg (reported by Jacki Brennan)

- No activity since last meeting; awaiting receipts from Staff Appreciation and Hospitality committees.
- Anticipate \$7500 to be available to fund the faculty wish list.

Secretary: Dnae Kinzie. No report.

Volunteer Coordinator: Patty McCarthy. No report.

Past President: JoAnn Miller. No report.

Directory: Jennifer Noser. No report.

Staff Appreciation: Mary Mockitis

- Staff breakfast was successful and appreciated.
- The remaining project for this school year is to thank non-academic staff with small gifts.

Hospitality: Tracy Nye (reported by Pam Bourjaily)

- Hospitality to provide cookies and drinks during the College Fair on March 30 at West High

Fine Arts: Pam Bourjaily reported on the numerous music performances taking place.

DPO: Terry O'Donnell Parsons

- Topics at the February meeting included the redistricting process, the search for a new superintendent for ICCSD, and the No Child Left Behind Act (currently up for re-vamping and approval in Congress).
- The next meeting on March 10, 2010 will feature the topic of federal perspectives on education.
- The 2010 DPO honoree, Therese Guedon, will be recognized in a ceremony on April 15 at City High.

Club West: JoAnn Miller

- The winter sports awards will be held on March 9.
- The Athletic Training room needs updating.
- Pancake Day fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 10.

Landscaping: JoAnn Miller.

- Work continues on front landscaping and mulching in the back.

Business: Jacki Brennan

- The Art Show, held in conjunction with a Show Choir performance on March 7, was successful.
- The annual Parent Forum will be held on Tuesday, April 13 from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm. The panel discussion is entitled "Teen Stress and Mental Health Issues".
- PSTO needs a vice president for next year.
- Assistant Principal Molly Abraham will send out the Wish List form to solicit requests from teachers.

Meeting Adjourned

Attendees: Jerry Arganbright, Russ Johnson, Jacki Brennan, Pam Bourjaily, Karle Grimsman, Lydia Peller, Jennifer Noser, JoAnn Miller, Brady Shutt, Molly Abraham, Terry O'Donnell Parsons, Mary Mockaitis, Steve Merkle Molly McConnell, Phoebe Yetley, Dnae Kinzie

Respectfully submitted by Dnae Kinzie